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The Sky is the Limit at New Educational Facility

Students on the Eastern Shore of Virginia and Maryland will soon be using the latest computer software and hardware as they learn how to design an aircraft and plot its flight or take a virtual trip to the International Space Station.

NASA's Glenn Research Center in partnership with the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Princess Anne, MD, dedicated an Aeronautics Educational Laboratory (AEL) on Saturday, May 4. It is located at the new Science, Engineering, Mathematics and Aerospace Academy (SEMMA) site at Mary N. Smith Middle School in Accomac, Va. The SEMMA site supported by the Wallops Equal Opportunities Program Office and the Wallops Black History Club.

Among the dignitaries present were Dr. Eucharia Nnadi, Vice President of Academic Affairs, and Dr. Eddie Boyd, Dean, School of Business and Technology, from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. Representing NASA were Mary Ann Stoutsenberger, NASA Headquarters, Minority University Research and Education; Dr. John Campbell, Director, Suborbital and Special Orbital Projects, Wallops Flight Facility; and John Hairston, Director of External Programs, Glenn Research Center.

The AEL is designed to stimulate students' curiosity as they explore the world of math and science using the latest computer technology. "We want to make science and discovery, exploration and research cool – exciting for kids to want to learn more and draw on natural human inquisitiveness," said NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe.

"The young people who participate in this program will be the engineers, researchers and computer experts of tomorrow," said Hairston. "The goal of this program is to inspire them to excel in the areas of math, science and technology so they may reach their full potential."

SEMMA is an exciting program that exposes historically under-represented students in grades K-12 to activities in the fields of science, engineering, mathematics and technology. This hands-on program, free to participating students, consists of three eight-week Saturday morning sessions featuring distinct curriculums for each grade level. They range from "Rocketeers", where kindergarteners explore dressing

and eating while traveling in space to SEMMA internships that allow high school seniors to explore their own interests through individualized curriculums.



Digital photo by Keith Koehler
(left to right) John Hairston; Accomack County School Superintendent, Rick Bull; Dr. Eucharia Nnadi and Mary Ann Stoutsenberger.

The Aeronautics Educational Laboratory (AEL) is a leap in classroom technology with a state-of-the-art electronically enhanced computerized classroom that puts cutting-edge technology in the hands of students in grades 7 through 12. The laboratory was built and equipped with a combination of university and NASA funds for about \$200,000 and is part of a nationwide network of similar programs across the country cosponsored by NASA.

SEMMA, a vision of former Congressman Louis Stokes of Cleveland, was developed in 1993 as a partnership between Glenn and Cuyahoga Community College in Cleveland to foster understanding and enthusiasm for math and science in school-age children. Since then, SEMMA has grown from a single location to a multisite organization reaching nearly 4,000 students participating in programs around the country.

SEMMA is funded by NASA's Office of Equal Employment Opportunities.

Additional information about SEMMA can be found at: www.semaa.net
For more information about AEL visit: www.grc.nasa.gov/WWW/MAEL/



**Mother's Day
is May 12**

NASA Honors Student Winners

Is there usable water on Mars? How does the space environment affect earthworms? What is the effect of El Nino on whale shark migration? What does a rocket flight sound like?

Students nationwide tackled these and many other questions as part of the NASA Student Involvement Program, or NSIP, competition. NSIP is a national education program for grades K through 12 that links students directly with NASA's diverse missions of research, exploration and discovery.

NASA's Stennis Space Center in south Mississippi will host the NSIP National Symposium for high school winners and their teachers May 5-8, 2002. The students will present their winning projects from one of the following competition areas: Design a Mission to Mars; Watching Earth Change; and Science and Technology Journalism. Students and NASA scientists and engineers will discuss issues raised by each winning team.

During June, space flight student winners and their teachers will spend a week at the NASA Wallops Flight Facility. Through NSIP, student experiments were selected in January 2002 to fly on either a NASA suborbital sounding rocket in June or a future Space Shuttle mission.

During their visit the students will work with Wallops personnel to make final experiment preparations and get a first-hand look at the facility operations.

In addition, those participating in the rocket project at Wallops will witness the launch of their experiments, analyze the data and present their findings to other students and NASA engineers and scientists.

Every student who enters the NSIP competition with a qualified entry will receive a certification of participation. First place winners from each judging center in grades K-8 will win a presentation at their school by a NASA representative.

The following Web site provides additional information about the NSIP competition: <http://education.nasa.gov/nsip>

The Offices of Human Resources and Education, Space Flight, Earth Science and Space Science at NASA Headquarters, Washington, support the NSIP Competition.

April Showers with Warm Temperatures

April 2002 has left us with memories of heavy rains and record setting high temperatures. Mother Nature provided the Wallops area with almost 5 inches of rain during the month, which was almost 2 inches above normal for the month. The most rainfall in a 24-hour period was 1.64 inches that fell April 27 and 28. Measurable rainfall was recorded on 14 days during April, verses the average of 10 days. More than a half-inch fell on three days and more than an inch fell on two days.

The average temperature was almost 59 degrees, which is an average of 5.4 degrees warmer than normal. The warmest temperature was 91 degrees reached on April 17, setting a new daily record high for the date. The previous record high was 86 degrees set in 1976. A record of 88 degrees was also recorded on April 18. The previous record high was 83 degrees set in 1964. While the low temperature for the month was 32 degrees on April 7, it was not a record. A reading of 38 degrees on April 24 was a new daily record low replacing the old reading for the date of 39 degrees recorded in 1967. Daily highs were above average on 17 days while overnight lows were above average 19 nights.



April was breezy with gusts of 25 knots or greater recorded on 7 days with the strongest gust of 38 knots on April 29.

June is rapidly approaching, and the children are looking forward to summer vacation. During June, there is an average of 3.12 inches of measurable precipitation occurring on 8 days. Average daily high temperatures at the beginning of the month are 78 degrees, reaching an average of 83 degrees by the end of June. The record high for June of 96 degrees occurred on four different dates; June 1, 1991; June 8, 1999; June 29, 1991; and June 30, 1967.

The hurricane season officially begins in June. The early forecast is for 12 named storms and 7 hurricanes, with three of these major hurricanes. A major hurricane is one that attains a classification of Category 3, 4 or 5. The following are names selected for hurricanes this season: Arthur, Bertha, Cristobal, Dolly, Edouard, Fay, Gustav, Hanna, Isidore, Josephine, Kyle, Lili, Marco, Nana, Omar, Paloma, Rene, Sally, Teddy, Vicky, and Wilfred.

We look forward to a pleasant and uneventful weather summer. In the event we should be visited by a hurricane or other storm system, now is the time to begin emergency preparations by making sure you have a good portable radio, extra batteries, canned foods, bottled water, etc. Know your evacuation route and when it will be necessary to evacuate.

NASA Goddard and Class Agree to Settle Race Discrimination Suit

NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC) and the class in a lawsuit filed on behalf of 120 African Americans who served as non-managerial, non-supervisory scientists and engineers at the GS-13 and GS-14 levels between April 1991 and February 25, 2002, have agreed to settle their suit. The settlement provides for a \$3.75 million fund in economic relief to class members, promotions for both class members and non-class members following merit-based reviews, and evaluation and redesign of GSFC's personnel management system and alternative dispute resolution procedures by independent experts.

The lawsuit, filed with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in April 1993, contended that the Goddard Space Flight Center discriminated against African American non-managerial, non-supervisory scientists and engineers who were eligible for but did not receive promotions to the GS-14 and GS-15 levels. After litigating class certification issues, the parties voluntarily entered into mediation in February 2001 in an effort to redress concerns raised by the class and to avoid additional litigation costs.

Under the terms of the settlement agreement, GSFC admits no wrongdoing. The parties reached settlement with the assistance of private mediator Linda Singer of ADR Associates.

Goddard Space Flight Center Director A. V. Diaz said, "This settlement establishes a new beginning for the entire GSFC community. It offers the opportunity to enhance our efforts to put in place policies and procedures that will ensure all employees are treated fairly and given equal access to promotion and development opportunities."

The settlement appoints an independent expert to recommend improvements to GSFC's performance management system with respect to accretion and career ladder promotions, awards, training and performance appraisals. Another independent expert will give a fresh look to GSFC's current alternative dispute resolution process for resolving informal EEO complaints.

Other important elements of the settlement include establishing new manager and supervisor training programs to foster employee development, EEO and diversity issues and providing management track training opportunities for scientists and engineers at GSFC.

Class members or other persons interested in learning more about the settlement terms can access information on the web at www.katorparks.com. Alternatively, they may phone 1-866-385-5767.

Wallops Shorts..... Sounding Rocket Launch

A NASA Terrier-Black Brant sounding rocket was successfully launched from White Sands Missile Range, N.M. on April 30. The payload was a solar and heliospheric sciences experiment. Dr. Dennis Martinez-Galarce, Stanford University, was the principal investigator.

Congratulations to.....

Orland Howard, GHG, who retired as head of the Wallops Photo Lab effective May 3. Howard began his career at Wallops Flight Facility on April 1, 1956.



Orland Howard

Photo by Tom Burton

Community Leaders Visit

A community leaders forum for local, state and federal government representatives and local business leaders from Virginia was held in the Chincoteague Room of Building E-107 on May 3. Wallops Senior Manager, John Campbell discussed current activities at Wallops and future endeavors being pursued. A forum for representatives and business leaders from Maryland will be held May 10.

Upcoming Range Activity

Two NASA Nike-Orion sounding rockets are scheduled for launch from Wallops Island. The first window for the nighttime "thunderstorm series" opens on May 8 and runs through May 17. Dr. Charles Croskey, Penn State University, is the principal investigator.

A Lockheed Martin hybrid sounding rocket launch is currently scheduled from Wallops Island. The window opens May 11 and runs from 6 to 9 a.m.

Mark your calendar

The Eastern Shore Blood Bank will hold a blood drive on June 12.

The Wallops Black History Club will sponsor a bus trip to Atlantic City, N.J., on July 20. Tickets are \$20. For information contact, Dave Smith on x1316, Rebecca Beach on x1559, Freda Johnson on X1466 or Audrey Young on x1084.

Inside Wallops is an official publication of Goddard Space Flight Center and is published by the Wallops Office of Public Affairs, Extension 1584, in the interest of Wallops employees. Recent and past issues of *Inside Wallops* also may be found on the NASA Wallops Flight Facility homepage: www.wff.nasa.gov

Editor

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